

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: SALE OF F-15 TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: STATE 100820

1. DUE TO SEVERE MANPOWER CONSTRAINTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, RSAF DOES USE SECONDED PAKISTANI MILITARY PERSONNEL TO AUGMENT RSAF IN STAFF SUPPORT AT BASE AND HQS LEVEL, IN POSITIONS PRIMARILY DEALING WITH SUPPLY, PUBLICATIONS, AND RELATED AREAS. IN ADDITION, TWO PAKISTANI OFFICERS SECONDED TO RSAF FLY THE F-5, ONE AS SQUADRON FLYING SAFETY OFFICER IN TAIF AND ANOTHER AS SQUADRON INSTRUCTOR IN KHAMIS MUSHAYT. THESE PILOTS APPARENTLY FUNCTION IN SAME MANNER AS USAF TAFT PILOTS.

2. SINCE THE F-15 HAS NOT OFFICIALLY BEEN OFFERED TO THE SAG, DETAILS OF F-15 RELATED MANNING HAVE NOT BEEN DEVELOPED. THEREFORE, RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO HOW MANY, WHAT NATIONALITIES, WHAT PHASES OF THE PROGRAM, AND WHAT CAPACITY, CANNOT BE ANSWERED NOW. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SUCH AS THESE MUST AWAIT RESULTS OF SURVEYS TO DETERMINE DETAILED REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE THAT ONLY U.S. CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS WILL BE INVOLVED WITH F-15. FOREIGN CIVILIANS, I.E., PAKISTANIS, ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH SUPPORT FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS FLIGHT LINE A/C SERVICING, REFUEL,

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OXYGEN, ETC. HOWEVER, NONE ARE INVOLVED IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE NOW AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THEY WILL BE INVOLVED IN F-15 MAINTENANCE.

3. THERE ARE SOME TCN CIVILIANS INVOLVED IN OTHER SAUDI MILITARY PROGRAMS. MODA HAS A SMALL NUMBER OF TRANSLATORS, SOME OF WHOM ARE PROBABLY JORDANIANS WHO MAY BE PALESTIN-

IAN IN ORIGIN. VINELL CORP EMPLOYS TCN INSTRUCTORS IN THE SANG PROGRAM, SOME OF WHOM MAY BE JORDANIANS. THE SAUDI LAND FORCES HAVE A NUMBER OF PAKISTANI "ADVISORS" WHO PERFORM VARIOUS LOW LEVEL TASKS. THESE PERSONNEL DEAL EITHER IN GROAD GENERALITIES (THE TRANSLATORS) OR DETAILED, REOUTINE, NON-SENSITIVE MATTERS (THE SANG INSTUCTORS).

4. AS FOR SECURITY CLEARANCES, THE LABOR-SUPPLYING GOVERNMENT SUBMITS REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT TO SAUDI ARAIBAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION WHERE IT IS CAREFULLY SCREENED. SUBSEQUENTLY, REQUEST IS SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR REVIEW. THE VISA AND RESIDENT WORK PERMIT ARE PROCESSED THROUGH THE SAUDI ARABIAN IMBASSY IN THE LABOR-SUPPLYING COUNTRY. ONCE IN SAUDI ARABIA, ALL TCN HAVE RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR MOBILITY IN COUNTRY. AREA CLEARANCES ARE REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE VARIOUS AREAS (DISTRICTS) IN SAUDI ARABIA. WITHOUT THIS AREA CLEARANCE, A TCN CANNOT EVEN ENTER A MILITARY INSTAL-LATION.

5. IN ADDITION TO AREA CLEARANCES, THE F-5 BASES HAVE SECURE ENTRY POINTS TO THE FLIGHT LINE AND MAINTENANCE AREAS. ARMED GUARDS ARE STATAIONED AT PERMANENT POSTS AND PATROL THE PERIMETER. THE AIRCRAFT PARKING AND MAINTEN-ANCE AREAS ARE WELL LIGHTED. ACCESS TO FLIGHT LINES IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED BY MEANS OF PASSES, WHICH ARE THOR-SECRET

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OUGHLY CHECKED AND PERIODICALLY CHANGED. PERSONNEL WHO POSSES VALID DOCUMENTS ARE OFTEN CHALLENGED AS TO PUR-POSSESS OF VISIT, ETC. AT DHAHARAN, FOR EXAMPLE, PASSENGERS FOR FLIGHTS ON USMTM AIRCRAFT MUST BOARD THE PLANE AT THE CIVILIAN TERMINAL RATHER THAT THE USMTM HANGAR, LOCATED NEAR THE F-5 FLIGHT LINE. NO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AUTHORIZED WITHOUT EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION.

6. THE RSAF REQUESTED A USAF EVALUATION OF THEIR BASE SECURITY, AND A SECURITY SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN JUNE 1977. ALL RSAF BASES WERE VISITED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMNETS WERE MADE. THE RSAF IS ACTIVELY PUR-SUING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS. AREAS BEIGN IMPORVED INCLUDE ORGANIZATION OF SECURITY FORCES, TRAINING, SYSTEMS STAN-DARDS, AND FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL UPGRADING OF SECURITY AT RSAF BASES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT INITIAL SURVEYS OF FACILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE F-15 SALE WILL DEVELOP ADDITIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. THE PROJECTED DELIVERY SCHEDULE OF F-15 AIRCRAFT AND SENSITIVE ITEMS ALLOWS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.

7. THIS IS JOINT USMTM/DAO/EMBASSY MESSAGE.

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